

## REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 11, 2007, the Examiner noted that claims 1-7, 9 and 10 were pending and under consideration. However, as corrected by the Examiner on page 2, item 1, claims 1-7 and 9 were currently pending and under consideration. Appropriate correction is respectfully requested.

No claims have been added, cancelled, or amended herein. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

### Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 2, the Office Action rejected claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,442,620 (Thatte) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023180 (Klimczak). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the references, as neither Thatte nor Klimczak, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests, "storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for a corresponding action with a message body as a search key," as recited by lines 6-8 of claim 1, for example.

On page 3, lines 17-21, the Office Action concedes that Thatte does not explicitly disclose the above-mentioned features. The Office Action alleged, however, that Klimczak discloses a message and action relationship storing part for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

Klimczak merely discloses "action items." As described for example, on page 3, lines 2-4 of Klimczak, action items are simply properties or attributes of an object that can be configured. In other words, the action items of Klimczak are not *reactions* to a message, but simply attributes that define characteristics of an object. Moreover, as shown in Figures 4 and 5 of Klimczak, the "OBJECT ACTIONS TABLE" does not store a message and an action which is a reaction to the message. Although Klimczak discloses an "Action Value Type Description" field in Figure 6, the field is simply used to describe an "Action Value Type ID" field and is not a reaction to a message. Accordingly, Klimczak fails to describe "storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message" as recited by claim 1.

In addition, as described in paragraphs [0097], [0041] and Figures 6 and 7, Klimczak describes merely utilizing an identifier to check whether an action item is present. Accordingly, the mere identifier in Klimczak fails to disclose or suggest, "a message and action relationship

storing part... adapted to search for a corresponding action with the message body as a search key" as recited by lines 6-8 of claim 1.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over the references, as Klimczak does not cure the deficiencies of Thatte.

Independent claims 4 and 9 recite "a message and action relationship storing part that stores contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for a corresponding action with the message body as a search key," and therefore, are patentable over the references.

Independent claim 6 recites "a message and action relationship storing processing operation of storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and searching for a corresponding action with a message body as a search key," and therefore, is patentable over the references.

Independent claim 7 recites "a message and action relationship storing processing operation of storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and searching for a corresponding action with the message body as a search key," and therefore, is patentable over the references.

Dependent claims 2-3 and 5 depend from independent claims 1 and 4, respectively, and therefore dependent claims 2-3 and 5 are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

## **Conclusion**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

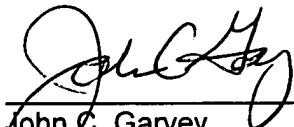
Serial No. 09/988,566

If there are any additional fees or credits associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3-26-08

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